

Author Visits

Teachers and librarians often contact us to ask if Eric does school visits. The answer is YES! Eric's motto is HAVE BOOKS, WILL TRAVEL. He speaks at schools, libraries, and conferences throughout the United States and in international school throughout the world.

Getting Started

Eric is a former teacher, librarian, and college professor with 30 years experience presenting to children and adults. How do you get started? Tell us who you are, what you need, and which type of program interests you. Every program is different. Don't hesitate to contact us with any questions you might have. We want to work with you to make sure your author visit is the BEST ONE EVER!

There are two types of visits:

Eric Comes To You.

- When visiting a school as a guest author, Eric will give a maximum of three presentations in the course of the day. He prefers to have the classes grouped together roughly by age. Younger children still learning the basics of writing have different needs than older children wrestling with the challenges of composition and revision.
- Programs for older children are generally 45 minutes to an hour. They average 30-45 minutes for younger children. Eric likes to save 5-10 minutes at the end of each presentation for questions. Children should feel free to ask anything about writing that they'd like to know.
- When Eric presents to younger children (K-2nd grade), he'll share one of his books as a story and take them "behind the scenes" to explain how he got the idea, how he developed it, and why he made the decisions he did when he was writing it.
- He does the same with older children (3rd-6th grade), but in greater depth and detail. He emphasizes the importance of revision and talks about how an author works with an editor. He shows them how a story goes from idea to book, and how the publishing process works. Eric likes to encourage children who enjoy writing to think about writing as a future career. "Someone's going to be a great writer in the future. Why can't that someone be you?"
- Kindergarten children and special needs children are always welcome at Eric's presentations. If attention spans are limited, Eric lets the teacher judge of how long the children ought to stay. Eric is fully comfortable with special needs children and whatever arrangements need to be made to make the program enjoyable for them.

- Eric enjoys spending time with children and teachers. We can arrange to have an evening program for families as one of the three presentations. Arrangements can also be made for children who are interested in writing to have lunch with Eric.
- Eric has been a presenter and keynote speaker at dozens of conferences. Just as with school visits, he will do a maximum of three programs/speeches/workshops/panels in one day. Tell us your needs so we can work together to meet them.
- Eric's equipment needs are simple. He often says, "A table, a chair, a glass of water, and some kids." Eric's main equipment need—and this is important—is a WORKING CORDLESS MICROPHONE. Eric moves around during his presentation. He has many things to show the children. It is essential that his hands are free and that he is able to walk around the room to be close to the children. A stationary microphone or even a cordless that he has to hold in one hand WILL NOT WORK and will DETRACT FROM THE QUALITY OF THE PROGRAM. A microphone may not be necessary if groups are small. However, a working cordless microphone should be available should Eric decide he needs one.
- Eric's fees for 2010 are as follows: \$1,000 per day plus expenses for local visits in the Portland Metro area, including Vancouver, WA. \$2,000 per day plus expenses (travel, lodging, meals) for visits that require an overnight stay.
- We encourage schools, libraries, or organizations in an area to share a visit. Sharing a visit allows them to share expenses. This saves a great deal of money—especially on airfare!

Eric Goes Online:

- We realize that in these difficult economic times many schools and libraries may not be able to afford an actual author visit. We are exploring the possibility of using the internet to make possible a virtual author visit.
- Eric can contact your school through iChat and Skype. The presentation's format will be different. We have found that a question-and-answer format, where Eric responds to the children's questions, works best. Eric's Mac computer has both audio and audio-visual capability. It is a good idea to run an informal "call" before the presentation to make sure the equipment on both ends is working.
- The cost of an hour-long virtual author visit is \$300. You may record the program and share it within your school or your district. We do ask that you not post any part of it online without our permission.
- Contact us to set up a time for a virtual visit.